

IAAM YOU

I am a museum envisioned and planned by a dedicated and believing community of people who have bravely taken the first steps toward making the telling of an epic and significant story a reality.

YOUR participation widens this community to one that will launch a viable and sustainable institution playing a central role in providing residents, schools, visitors and tourists with learning experiences for years to come.

YOU are diversified communities of support—
YOU are the business community, the faith based community, and the international community.
YOU are corporations
YOU are philanthropists, foundations, civic and social organizations
YOU are local, state and national governments
YOU are individuals
With YOU it will happen. With YOU the story will be told.
IAAM because YOU are taking part in this living legacy. Please join-in today.

To make the IAAM happen or
For more information contact:

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International African American Museum Charleston, SC USA



“This museum is the most important contribution of this generation, highlighting the contributions of Africans and African Americans in the creation of South Carolina and their impact on the world.”

Congressman James E. Clyburn

IAAM the Vision

To be a valuable, lasting resource where residents and visitors alike can learn the history of how Africans and their descendents shaped - even through the experience of enslavement - successive eras of economic, political and cultural development across the globe, as seen through the lens of South Carolina.

IAAM the Design Team

After international searches, all of the design professionals are in place. Leading the architectural team will Moody Nolan and Antoine Predock, Architects. Leading the exhibit design team is Ralph Applebaum Associates. Complementing this team will be local community and historical resource experts. Together the IAAM will lead the design for the site.



IAAM because the story

that connects our way of life-- our culture, our landscapes and our cityscapes, our language, our music, our foods—with Africa is vital for every American's experience. I am because of Charleston's significance as a major port of arrival for Africans in America. I am because this legacy, lived and living, speaks to ongoing struggles for human dignity, both at home and abroad.

I am because this story restores the African side of a conversation where the role of black people in a cultural relationship has primarily been told from only one side. The telling of this story gives precedence to voices and perspectives of African Americans. From this side of the conversation, the story is an exploration of a people's own history.

I am because this side of the conversation provides African Americans a point of view where one finds a people recognized, a people's roots respected, a people's history told honestly, a people's stories treasured, a people affirmed, and a people's memories collected and preserved.

I am because this story fosters cultural and commercial links between South Carolina, Africa and the African Diaspora and builds a bridge through the shared experiences of African, European and native people that connect, rather than divide.

IAAM the only site in America ...

to bring the continuing and living presence of Africa together as a story and to demonstrate its enormous historical importance, not only to South Carolina, but also to the country and the world.

I am the untold story of thousands of Africans, both free and enslaved, whose living and working forever shaped the cities and countryside of South Carolina, of their daily coping and resistance to a system of bondage woven into the fabric of family and community life, and of African Americans whose freedom defining actions in South Carolina reverberate throughout the United States. My story comes from the living experiences of real lives and real objects.



Three core galleries—Africans Shape the Rural Low country, Tales of African Cities, and Defining Freedom by Their Action—organize the themes of the story. Additional galleries introduce the local, regional, international, and cross-cultural threads of changing exhibits.